

Appl. No. 09/840,156
Reply to Office Action of Mar. 27, 2003

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please cancel Claims 6-10 and add new Claims 17-21.

The status of the claims in the application is as follows:

Claims 1-10 (Cancelled).

11. (Previously added) A machine comprising:

- (a) a dough feeding hopper;
- (b) a dough extrusion apparatus comprising:
 - (i) a first dough distributor and
 - (ii) a second dough distributor, interchangeable with said first dough distributor;
- (c) a dough weight and dimension control apparatus;
- (d) a dough cutting apparatus; and
- (e) an extruded dough portion control apparatus,

wherein:

- (f) said first dough distributor is adapted to cooperate with said dough cutting apparatus and said extruded dough portion control apparatus to produce dough portions in the range of 0.1-0.7 lb. and
- (g) said second dough distributor, when interchanged with said first dough distributor, is adapted to cooperate with said dough cutting apparatus and with said extruded dough portion control apparatus to produce dough portions heavier than 0.7 lb.

12. (Previously added) A machine according to claim 11, wherein said second dough distributor, when interchanged with said first dough distributor, is adapted to cooperate with said dough cutting apparatus and with said extruded dough portion control apparatus to produce dough portions in the range of 0.7-1.5 lb.

13. (Currently amended) A machine according to claim 11, wherein:

(a) said dough extrusion apparatus comprises a screw feeder;

(b) said first dough distributor is adapted to render the machine compatible with the performance of a known machine capable of producing dough portions substantially lighter than 0.7 lb.;

(c) said dough cutting apparatus is mounted at one side of a longitudinal development of the machine;

(e)-(d) said second dough distributor is made in the form of a cone having a longitudinal axis which is substantially inclined toward the dough cutting apparatus with respect to a said longitudinal development of the machine; and

(d) (e) said dough cutting apparatus has a length corresponding to the length of the cutting apparatus in the known machine capable of producing dough portions substantially lighter than .07lb.,

(e) (f) wherein said dough cutting apparatus is adapted to cooperate with said first dough distributor to produce dough portions in the range of 0.1-0.7 lb. and to cooperate with said second dough distributor to produce dough portions in the range of 0.7-1.5 lb.

14. (Previously added) A machine according to claim 11, wherein said second dough distributor is a cone-shaped horizontal distributor which is adapted to cooperate with a dough worm support apparatus.

15. (Previously added) A machine according to claim 14, wherein said dough worm support apparatus supports a dough worm until said cutting apparatus cuts the dough worm, thereby avoiding falling of the dough portion prior to cutting.

16. (Withdrawn).

Please add new Claims 17-21 as follows:

17. (New) A machine comprising:

- (a) means for feeding dough;
- (b) means for extruding the dough comprising:
 - (i) first means for distributing the dough and
 - (ii) second means for distributing the dough;
- (c) means for weighing the dough;
- (d) means for controlling a dough dimension;
- (e) means for cutting the dough; and
- (f) means for controlling an extruded portion of the dough,

wherein:

- (g) said first means for distributing the dough is adapted to cooperate with said means for cutting the dough and said means for controlling an extruded portion to produce dough portions in the range of 0.1-0.7 lb. and
- (h) said second means for distributing the dough, when interchanged with said first means for distributing the dough, is adapted to cooperate with said means for cutting the dough and with said means for controlling an extruded portion to produce dough portions heavier than 0.7 lb.

18. (New) A machine according to claim 17, wherein said second means for distributing the dough, when interchanged with said first means for distributing the dough, is

adapted to cooperate with said means for cutting the dough and with said means for controlling an extruded dough portion to produce dough portions in the range of 0.7-1.5 lb.

19. (New) A machine according to claim 17, wherein:

(a) said means for extruding the dough comprises a screw feeder;

(b) said first means for distributing the dough is adapted to render the machine compatible with the performance of a machine capable of producing dough portions substantially lighter than 0.7 lb.;

(c) said means for cutting the dough is mounted at one side of a longitudinal development of the machine;

(d) said second means for distributing the dough is made in the form of a cone having a longitudinal axis which is substantially inclined toward the means for cutting with respect to said longitudinal development of the machine; and

(e) said means for cutting has a length corresponding to the length of the cutter in the machine capable of producing dough portions substantially lighter than 0.7lb.,

(f) wherein said means for cutting is adapted to cooperate with said first means for distributing the dough to produce dough portions within the range of 0.1-0.7 lb. and to cooperate with said second means for distributing the dough to produce dough portions heavier than 0.7 lb.

20. (New) A machine according to claim 19, wherein said second means for distributing the dough is a horizontal distributor which is adapted to cooperate with a means for supporting a dough worm.

21. (New) A machine according to claim 20, wherein said means for supporting the dough worm supports a dough worm until said means for cutting the dough cuts said dough worm, thereby avoiding falling of the dough portion prior to cutting.